

**West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Summit Conference Center, Charleston, WV**  
**January 30, 2007**

**Members Present:** Jerri Stephens, Christy Bishop, Christy Black, Richard Covert, Ron Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Kim Farley, Ginny Gattlieb, Sandy Haberbosch, Jeff Marr, Karen Robinson, Zila Schemel, Parul Shah, Christina Smith, Kevin Smith, Cheryl Vega, Frank Kirkland, Pat Moss, Pat Winston, LuAnn Summers, Clarice Hausch

**Members Absent:** Clint Martin, Mary Ann Jenkins, Bob Cain, Jane McCallister, Libby Nester, Karen Ruddell, Julie Shelton, Janice Holland, Jennifer Waybright, Craig Curtis, John David Smith

**Staff Present:** Steve Wiseman, Jan Lilly-Stewart, Jim Cremeans, Linda Higgs, Betsy Southall

**Guests:** Brian Holstein for Julie Shelton, Pat Nisbet for Janice Holland, Tiffany Wiseman

**Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am by Jerri Stephens.

Members of the Council and staff introduced themselves.

Jerri reviewed the contents of the meeting packets.

Christina read the Council Mission statement.

**Public Comments:**

No comments offered.

**Approval of the October 24, 2006 Minutes:**

Christina asked for a clerical correction such that the ‘ARC’ be written: the “Arc” as in The *Arc*: Mid Ohio Valley Chapter.

**Kevin made and Ron seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected.**

**Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

**Appointment of Nominating Committee**

Jerri announced that Cheryl has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Jerri said that Ginny, Jennifer, and LuAnn have also agreed to serve on the Committee. The Committee is responsible for recommending new Council members and officers. The Committee’s recommendations will be presented at the April meeting.

**Kim made and Zila seconded a motion to accept the appointments to the Nominating Committee.**

**Motion carried.**

**By-Laws Amendments**

Linda reviewed the suggested changes to the By-Laws which were mailed to Members more than 30 days prior to the meeting. A workgroup prepared the proposed changes to reflect the use of workgroups rather than committees. They also proposed a method of electing members to the Executive Committee under the new structure.

**Sandy made and Kevin seconded a motion to accept the changes to the Council By-Laws.**

**Motion carried.**

## **Amendments to Policy on Committees and Policy on Grants**

Linda reviewed the suggested changes to the Policy on Committees. All references to standing committees have been removed with the exception of the Executive Committee. The name has been changed to Policy on Committees/Workgroups. She reviewed the change to the Policy on Grants. Grant applications will now be reviewed by a workgroup as opposed to standing committees.

**Sandy made and Ron seconded a motion to accept the changes to the Policy on Committees and the Policy on Grants.**

### **Motion carried.**

Jerri asked Members to list their areas of interest on the feedback forms to assist in recommending people to serve on State Plan related workgroups.

## **Election of Executive Committee Members**

A paper ballot was distributed to all Members. Jerri announced that the ballot contains a list of individuals who said that they were interested in serving on the committee. She said that there is room on the ballot for nominations from the floor.

Jerri asked for nominations from the floor. Sandy nominated herself. There were no further nominations from the floor. The individuals on the ballot were Christy Bishop, Jeannie Elkins, Pat Moss, Kevin Smith and Sandy Haberbosch. Members were asked to vote for 4 individuals.

Christy Bishop, Jeannie Elkins, Pat Moss and Kevin Smith were elected as the new Executive Committee. They will join Jerri and Clint who remain as the officers.

## **Legislative Issues**

Jan gave an overview of the activities of the session thus far. She passed out an update on the most relevant bills currently under review in the Legislature. She said that she has been busy meeting with Legislators, attending hearings and meetings and monitoring the progress of bills and budgetary issues.

Jan said that individuals interested in tracking bill status should visit the WV Legislature website at [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us) or the Fair Shake Network website at [www.fairshake.org](http://www.fairshake.org).

Karen and Zila began a discussion regarding issues with accessible parking.

Kim began a discussion about a legislative bill that would cause instructional aides to remain with the students they are assigned to for the year. The high turnover rate and the problems children have because of these issues were also discussed.

### **Other State/Federal Issues**

Steve provided an overview of the recommendations made by DD Council Executive Directors concerning the Re-authorization of the DD Act, scheduled for 2007. Steve attended an Executive Director's Retreat in December. He said that the Directors agreed that the Act is a good piece of legislation as it stands, but discussed how it could be made stronger in supporting people with dd and their families:

- 1) Continue the use of the term "developmental disabilities" not "disabilities" to keep the Act strong in addressing the unique needs of people with dd.
- 2) Ensure "hold harmless" language in the Act to guarantee that funds to States will not fall below protected levels. The last re-authorization of the DD Act inadvertently omitted "hold harmless" provisions, which led to loss of funds to states including WV (which suffered the highest percentage loss of funds in the country).
- 3) Include a new initiative to strengthen Family Support. To date, Family Support programs have been significantly under-funded.
- 4) Clarify the definition of "self-advocacy" by defining self-advocates as people with developmental disabilities, with an emphasis on cognitive/intellectual disabilities. This would address

the current conflict between the DD definition and SABE's (Self-Advocates Being Empowered) definition/language which uses the term "disabilities".

- 5) Include language that allows funding be moved from Projects of National Significance (PNS) to Self-Advocacy and Family Support.

### **Other Business**

Steve announced that Zila is the WV representative for the Social Security Beneficiaries Summit in Atlanta Ga. Zila said that she is looking forward to attending the Summit. Steve encouraged anyone having problems or concerns with social security benefits or SSI to talk with Zila so that she could take those concerns to the Summit.

Steve announced that the DHHR responses to the Council concerns regarding the MR/DD Waiver Manual were included in the packet. Pat W. apologized for the delay in getting those responses to the Council. She said if people still have questions and concerns, please contact her directly.

Frank announced that the DD Division website is currently under construction. There will be a list of frequently asked questions regarding the MR/DD Waiver posted on the website.

Steve reviewed a list of activities that the Council is currently involved in.

### **Training**

- a) The Council will be sponsoring an Employment Law Institute in collaboration with the UCED at WVU, Dat2a, and other organizations.
- b) Staff are currently exploring strategies for collaborating with advocacy organizations to develop training and information on grievance procedures for families, people with DD, and advocates.

- c) There will be a Social Role Valorization (SRV) workshop in March. This training is in lieu of the PASS (Program Analysis of Service Systems) training the Council had been providing and is more extensive. This is the third SRV training to be offered and PASSING (Program Analysis of Service Systems' Implementation of Normalization Goals) will be held next year. One must attend SRV before attending a PASSING workshop.
- d) Staff will be working with APS Healthcare and ResCare, Inc. on a statewide training initiative on person-centered planning. Council may pay for national level trainers for the project.

### **Personnel Development**

Steve reviewed the fact that the Council has a State Plan priority of addressing the training and support needs of direct support personnel. Through a previous grant with Human Services Research Institute, the Council developed a state direct support services plan for developing new credentialing and training standards based on the College of Direct Supports Curriculum.

Council staff have been in contact and received support by key staff at the Office of Behavioral Health Services to develop plans to utilize the College of Direct Support Curriculum as the standard for WV. Staff will follow up with OBHS staff, and contact members of the direct support workgroup (HSRI Project) in February.

### **Other Systems Improvements**

Steve said that the DHHR did not get the grant for which they applied to help implement a Money Follows the Person (MFP) Strategy. Steve said staff will be working with DHHR and advocates to carry out the new Transition Initiative and to include ICF/MR facilities in that initiative. Other improvement activities in which the Council is involved include the DHHR behavioral health draft rules workgroup (also includes Clarice); School-to Work Transition Workgroup (includes Jim, Luann, Karen R. and Jeannie); Olmstead Advisory

Council which is becoming very active and is taking up MFP and Medicaid rebalancing issues.

Jeannie began a discussion on supported employment. Frank announced that DD Division is looking at ways to get people with developmental disabilities more involved with supported employment opportunities.

Steve stated that a new program, Personal Options, is a self directed option that has been added to the A/D Waiver. Pat W. said that the hope is that the program will be available for people to utilize on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This option will offer more flexibility and will allow individuals to have more control over their services and supports. She announced that the Manual will go up for public comment in the near future.

Karen began a discussion of the A/D Waiver eligibility requirements and application process.

Clarice began a discussion regarding the fiscal agent needed for people to employ a self-directed option. Brian suggested that those interested in learning more about the A/D waiver or more about the fiscal intermediary process should contact the A/D Waiver hotline.

### **Public Information**

The Council website is always being updated, and there will be more information on the current grants. Staff are working on developing a reader-friendly version of the State Plan and a 2006 Annual Report.

### **Dat2a Presentation**

Vicki Smith gave an overview of the WV Self Advocacy project. The project seeks to support organizations across the State to strengthen local and statewide self-advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities. The project is in its infancy. The presentation focused on a 3 month overview of project activities including results from Self-Advocacy Cafés.

### **Maternal Child and Family Health Presentation**

Pat Moss gave an overview of the interrelationship between the Bureau of Public Health, specifically Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, and the WV DD Council. Pat distributed an information packet and reviewed how the activities of her agency directly affect the Council goals and mission. Pat will be working closely with the Council regarding its goals to strengthen collaboration between major systems and data management, tracking and reporting of un-served and underserved people.

### **Arc of Mid Ohio Valley Health and Wellth Presentation**

Will Dobrolenski gave an overview of the Health and Wellth project. This project is in its third year of funding. The goal of this project is to help people with developmental disabilities learn to live more healthy lives. Participants learn about fitness, nutrition, exercise, relaxation and preventative care. Will distributed an information packet about the program to Council Members.

### **Adjournment**

**Kevin made and Jeff seconded a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM